

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02

ACDA-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

SS-15 NSC-05 OMB-01 H-01 DODE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 /058 R

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TO AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP, MARR

SUBJECT: MIGUEL ACOCA ARTICLE ON SPANISH BASE TALKS

IN WASHINGTON POST FEBRUARY 24.

1. ACOCA ARTICLE ALREADY CABLED VIA USINFO FEBRUARY

24. EMBASSY SHOULD CONSULT WITH SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTRY

ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

A). IN ACCORD WITH PREVIOUS UNDERSTANDINGS BETWEEN
THE NEGOTIATORS TO COORDINATE PRESS POSTURE AND TO
PRESERVE CONFIDENTIALITY OF TALKS, WE WISH TO REVIEW
WITH GOS OUR RESPECTIVE RESPONSES TO PRESS INQUIRIES
THAT MAY FLOW FROM ACOCA ARTICLE.

B). WE HAVE PREPARED PRESS GUIDANCE TO BE USED
ON "IF ASKED" BASIS (PARA 3 BELOW).

C). HOW DOES GOS PLAN TO RESPOND TO THE QUESTIONS
SUCH AS THOSE WE ANTICIPATED IN OUR PRESS GUIDANCE?

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D). WE NOTE ACOCA ATTRIBUTED HIS INFORMATION TO

A SPANISH SOURCE. DOES FOREIGN MINISTRY HAVE ANY
COMMENT ON THIS?

2. CABLE SPANISH RESPONSE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. ANY
EMBASSY COMMENT WELCOME.

FYI. GUIDANCE WAS AVAILABLE TO DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN
FOR NOON PRESS BRIEFING FEBRUARY 24, BUT NOT RPT
NOT USED BECAUSE PRESS FOCUSED ON ARMS AID TO

PAKISTAN, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF PRESENCE AT BRIEFING
OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON. END FYI.

3. EMBASSY SHOULD GIVE FOREIGN MINISTRY FOLLOWING
TEXT OF PRESS GUIDANCE:

QUOTE: QUESTION: WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE
SPANISH DEMAND THAT THE US LEAVE THE AIR BASES AT
TORREJON AND PERHAPS MORON, AS REPORTED IN THIS
MORNING'S (FEB. 24) WASHINGTON POST BY M. ACOCA?

ANSWER: OUR STANDING POLICY IS NOT TO COMMENT ON
THE DETAILS OR ON-GOING NEGOTIATIONS WITH OTHER
COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, I CAN SAY THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS
TO DATE HAVE DEALT ONLY WITH THE OVERALL US-SPANISH
DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP AND THE QUESTION OF THE USE OF
SPECIFIC FACILITIES HAS NOT YET ARisen. LET ME
REFER TO THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END
OF THE LATEST NEGOTIATING ROUND ON FEBRUARY 12.
QUOTE: THE CONVERSATIONS DEALT WITH A GENERAL
DISCUSSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIC SITUATION
AND CONSIDERED POSSIBILITIES FOR A NEW AND CLOSER
PARTNERSHIP WITH A VIEW TO FULL COOPERATION IN
WESTERN DEFENSE. END QUOTE.

QUESTION: THE STORY SAYS THE SPANISH BASES WERE
USED FOR AERIAL REFUELING FOR CARGO PLANES IN THE
RESUPPLY OF ISRAEL IN 1973. WHAT CAN YOU TELL
US ABOUT THIS ARRANGEMENT?

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ANSWER: THE 1973 RESUPPLY OF ISRAEL HAS PROVOKED
MUCH COMMENT AND SPECULATION. I DO NOT THINK IT WOULD
BE USEFUL FOR ME TO COMMENT ON REPORTS SUCH AS THE
POST STORY.

QUESTION: HOW MANY PEOPLE DO WE HAVE AT THE SPANISH
BASES?

ANSWER: THE TOTAL NUMBER OF US MILITARY PERSONNEL
BASED IN SPAIN IS ABOUT 9,000. QUESTIONS ON
PERSONNEL STRENGTH AT INDIVIDUAL BASES SHOULD BE
ADDRESSED TO DOD.

QUESTION: IS PRIME MINISTER ARIAS COMING TO THE US
TO VISIT PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER?

ANSWER: THERE ARE NO PRESENT PLANS FOR SUCH A VISIT. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS, MILITARY BASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE041423
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EMROWELL:MJK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750065-0371
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750217/aaaaapkn.tel
Line Count: 124
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <28 OCT 2003 by ellisob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MIGUEL ACOCA ARTICLE ON SPANISH BASE TALKS IN WASHINGTON POST FEBRUARY 24.
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, SP
To: MADRID
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006